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Old Friend Talks About Kennedy and Vietnam

"If John F. Kennedy had lived, our military involvement in Vietnam would have been over by the end of 1964," a former undersecretary of the Navy during the Kennedy administration said yesterday.

Paul B. (Red) Fay, one of the late President's friends and currently a San Francisco stocktroker, made his remarks in Lafayette at the tenth anniversary ceremony of John F. Kennedy University.

The 56-year-old Fay, a PT boat commander in the same squadron with Mr. Kennedy during World War II, said Mr. Kennedy would have preferred diplomacy instead of military action. He said there would have never been 500,000 GI's put on an alert for action, as happened during the Gulf of Tonkin incident, if Mr. Kennedy had been alive.

"He was making every attempt to end the conflict," Fay told 200 persons attending the ceremony at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church.

The hour-and-and-a-half ceremony also included the inaugural address of the Martinez-based school's new president, Robert M. Fisher. Fisher, mayor of Lafayette, commended his students, most of them resuming educations after interruptions such military service, for their dedication and fortitude.